

July 23, 2003

MCA-MDT Technical Committee Meeting

The meeting began at 8:00 a.m.

Bob Kober opened the meeting to new MDT business. After the new business from MDT, both sides went through the remaining old business. MCA was then given the opportunity to offer their new business.

MDT NEW BUSINESS

1. **Certified Traffic Control Supervisor.** MDT informed MCA about a program being developed at MSU to train certified traffic control supervisors. MDT asked if there would be interest in this program if MDT required certified traffic control supervisors on some of the bigger, more complex projects around the state. MCA expressed some interest in this program, especially if they can utilize the program at MSU rather than going through ATSSA in Arizona. MDT will bring more information to the MCA when it is available.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Median Barrier Rail Connections.** MDT informed MCA that the Detailed Drawings are done and should be out for comment this week. The new drawings will be open for comment for one month and MDT expects these to be implemented with the November letting.
2. **Value Engineering Proposals.** FHWA informed MDT and MCA that if there is a Value Engineering Proposal on a project, the Feds need to be involved in the evaluation process. This item will be dropped.
3. **Claims Specification.** MDT informed MCA this specification should be out the same week as the meeting for formal comment.
4. **Electronic Bidding.** MDT received 29 responses to the contractor survey, almost all of which seemed to be positive comments. MDT will move ahead with this. MCA then discussed the potential of teleconferencing due to the fact that some contractors are finding travel to Helena difficult during the construction season. MCA wants this item to remain in the agenda to stay updated monthly. MDT hopes for implementation around November or December, although this is dependent on if an in-house system is developed or Bid Express is used.
5. **Erosion Control.** MDT will work to make the erosion control plans available. This will take some time, since design will have to complete the plans sooner than they have been. MCA felt that the plans should be included in the package all the time. There was some discussion about the rate schedule for the silt fence. MCA would like to see better specifics in the rate schedule for the silt fence. MDT requested some rate breakdowns from MCA and will look into this. MDT would also like to see the rate schedules as balanced as possible. MCA felt that with the way the rate schedule is now, the contractors would always use erosion control procedures that will allow for the most profitability rather than the best working erosion control for that application. MDT felt the plans would be available in the next couple of months.
6. **Heavy Duty Cattle Guard Bases.** There is currently a special provision to allow the use of precast bases on mainline and interstate ramp applications, until the drawings are complete.
7. **Construction Memos.** MDT informed MCA that the memos are presently out on the website. There was some discussion dealing with the construction manual. MCA felt that it would be a good idea to have access to the construction manual as well. MDT stated that there is a consultant that is currently updating the manual.
8. **Grade 5A and 6A Gravel.** MDT will work to balance the bands in the gradation. MDT will have a response by the September Meeting.
9. **Select Backfill.** MDT is currently working on this and other specifications to alleviate the variance between specifications. This item will be dropped.

MCA NEW BUSINESS

1. MCA informed MDT that contractors are still receiving bills on some small adjustments to projects that have been completed for a year or more. Some of these adjustments are miscellaneous work items without any explanation. This is a problem for the prime contractors because subcontractors do a lot of the miscellaneous work on projects. MDT stated that it would look into working on the process. MCA would like to not see any bills after the final sign off on a particular job. MCA will be looking forward to seeing a draft in future meetings.

The next meeting will be **September 24, 2003**, beginning at 8:00 a.m. at the **MCA Office**.

cc:	Darrin Grenfell, FHWA	Bob Kober
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	James Walther	Carl Peil
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